

The Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) held a somewhat abbreviated monthly meeting on 10 September focusing on emerging topics.

1. The community side of sound wall F2 (adjacent to N. Quaker Lane) will receive extensive landscaping over the next two months. As part of the I-395 Express Lanes project, VDOT and its industrial partners will plant trees, shrubs and vines which, over time, will make the wall less visible to residents of the 300 series buildings. In addition to initial planting, VDOT is required to provide first year maintenance, to include watering and replacement (if necessary). The Landscape Committee and TLUC Chairs, along with Parkfairfax Management, met with the VDOT landscape team on 14 September during a site visit to preliminarily determine planting location and selection. Detailed layout will be quickly undertaken to support the fall planting schedule.
2. Reports of loud noises occurring “in twos” behind the 400 series buildings and Parc East tennis courts were discussed. These noises, of undermined origin, have been particularly noticed during early morning hours. The TLUC Chair has visited the area in question, as well as conducted observation from the I-395 pedestrian overpass but did not witness anything unusual during the admittedly brief observation period. The matter has been referred to VDOT for further analysis and corrective action.
3. The TLUC Chair has reported, with urgency, the tall grass blocking visibility at the merge point of Shirlington Rd. into the circle. VDOT’s maintenance contractor has finally tackled this tiny, but terribly important, task.
4. The TLUC discussed recent decisions by ART, Metrobus and Metrorail to substantially ramp up service to near pre-pandemic levels, with DASH service augmentation starting 15 September. While most DASH routes, including AT9 are back to their normal service frequency, the two principal commuter routes connecting Parkfairfax with the Pentagon, namely AT3 and AT4, remain on a 60-minute headway due to extremely low ridership. Recent data show only 30 passengers per day using AT3 and 12 using AT4! These routes also serve the communities of North Ridge and Beverley Hills where it is likely that most would-be commuters have the option of working from home. If demand ticks upward, DASH will consider restoring additional service on the AT3 and AT4. It should be noted that Metrobus 22A operates hourly throughout the day (now including rush hours) providing alternative transportation between Parkfairfax, Pentagon City and the Pentagon.
5. TLUC members nostalgically waxed and waned about the parking situation in several areas of Parkfairfax. It was recalled that several years even a very simple vehicle identification (decal) system for Parkfairfax-controlled parking areas (lots, Lanes, 3100 blk Ravensworth), was deemed an overreach and infringement on civil liberties and thus not approved. In the event a tree falls, a watermain breaks or other unexpected need to contact a vehicle owner arises, Management has no practical means to do so.

The next regular monthly TLUC meeting will be 8 October at 7 PM.

Bob Gronenberg
TLUC Committee Chair